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Roxbury, Feb. 5, 1874.

My dear Johnson:

With no reference to myself, I am truly rejoiced that you feel moved to write some reminiscences of the anti-slavery struggle for publication; for no one is more conversant with the events connected with that struggle than yourself, and scarcely anyone did more to bring it on and to hasten its consummation. In all respects you are well qualified to write its history in full. I heartily wish you had the time and opportunity to undertake the inspiring though laborious task.

Now to answering your questions:—

1. The petition to Congress I printed and circulated in Vermont, in 1828, simply asked that body to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia on the ground of its



injustice and cruelty. The number of signatures appended to it was between six and seven thousand — obtained largely through the co-operation of the post-masters.

2. I wrote my original prospectus for the Liberator in Boston, and published it in August, 1830, after my liberation from prison.

3. I do not now recall more than <sup>the</sup> two sonnets referred to by you, as pencilled impromptu on the walls of my cell; but I wrote on paper a poetical tribute to the Hon. Theodore Tilton, elicited by an eloquent speech made by him in Congress in defence of the Cherokees and Choctaws.

4. I was released from the Baltimore Prison in June, 1829; and on coming out of it, endeavored to obtain a meeting-house or hall in that city, in which to



Enforce my Anti-Slavery views; but, being regarded as out of my rights, of course I was frustrated in my object. Soon afterward, I shook off the dust from my feet upon the city, and proceeded to Philadelphia, where I obtained Institute Hall - delivering in the same three lectures which I had prepared in prison. My audiences were almost exclusively composed of members of the Society of Friends and Colored people, who gave me marked attention and listened with deep interest; though my "Lard language" did not please in all cases. I delivered the same lectures in Broadway Hall, New York City, to small but respectable audiences - Arthur and Lewis Tappan honoring me with their presence, and for the first time getting enlightened as to the real character and object of the American Colonization Society. I next went to



New Haven, and was welcomed by my friend Rev. Lincoln S. Jocelyn to the pulpit of the colored church in that city, which he then occupied for the time being. I spoke to mixed congregations, and naturally to the hearty approval of my colored hearers. I had a prolonged interview with Rev. Leonard Bacon, D.D., and an earnest discussion respecting the merits of the Am. Col. Society, he being its special champion. I was greatly impressed with his ability, and equally so with the precision of his reasoning. At Hartford I lectured in a colored church, and roused up a good deal of interest in the breasts of the colored inhabitants. In all these places converts and friends were made among the whites.

5. On returning to Boston, I spent some time in trying to procure, gratuitously, a meeting-house for the delivery of my



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lectures, but made my appeals in vain. This led me to insert in the Boston Courier (then edited by Joseph T. Bucking-  
Lam) the following advertisement: —

"Travellers - For three evenings, a Hall or Meeting-Louse (the latter would be preferred), in which to vindicate the rights of two millions of American citizens who are now groaning in servile chains in this boasted land of liberty; and also to propose just, benevolent, and constitutional measures for their relief.

As the addresses will be gratuitous, and as the cause is of public benefit, I cannot consent to remunerate any society for the use of its building. If this application fails, I propose to address the citizens of Boston in the open air on the Common.  
Wm Lloyd Garrison.



No. 30, Federal Street, Oct. 11, 1830."

You are familiar with all that subsequently followed. [See S. J. May's "Anti-Slavery Recollections."]

6. I am unable to recall distinctly what I did to enlist the clergy in the A. S. Cause; only I remember that no encouragement, but much discouragement, came from that quarter. [See, again, Mr May's "Recollections."]

Whittier's complimentary and strengthening poetical effusion to me was written in 1833.

I will send you as many volumes of the Liberator as you may wish to have by installments. State how they shall be directed, if sent.

I gratefully appreciate all that you aim at in regard to my Anti-Slavery career.



I am glad to know your opinion  
of Bore; it exactly accords with my  
impression of him.

Yours, always to serve,  
Jm. Lloyd Garrison.

Olive Johnson.



